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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,622	02/25/2002	Koichi Takahashi	1448.1021	8100

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EXAMINER

DENNISON, JERRY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,622

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI, KOICHI

Examiner

J. Bret Dennison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Application Number 10/0080,622 received on 25 February 2002.
2. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 5 recites the limitation "wherein the warning notice is issued after the recipient sends the reception refusal notification first time, and the particular number of times is equal to two." It is unclear to Examiner how the "first time" and the "particular number of times is equal to two" relate to each other. Examiner does not see how the first time can equal the second time or "number of times equal to two". It is also unclear to Examiner what "sends the reception refusal notification first time" means. Examiner will interpret the limitation as "sends the reception refusal notification the first time". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Interpretation

4. Before a detailed mapping, a brief interpretation of the claimed invention should be made to clarify how Examiner is interpreting the claims. The independent claims include nothing more than preventing junk mail transmission and sending a refusal

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notice to the sender. Dependent claims 2 and 3 include charging for junk mail, and dependant claim 4 includes stopping transmission from the sender.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pace et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,460,050).

5. Regarding claims 1 and 6-8, Pace discloses a method and apparatus for preventing transmission of junk mail, the method comprising:

relaying an electronic mail from a transmitter to a recipient (Pace, see Figure 2);

sending a warning notice to the transmitter, when the recipient determines that the received electronic mail is a junk mail and sends a reception refusal notice (Pace, col. 4, lines 40-45); and

issuing a penalty invoice notice to the transmitter, when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice for a particular number of times with respect to the same transmitter (Pace, col. 4, lines 45-53).

Claims 6-8 include limitations that are substantially similar to claim 1 and are therefore rejected under the same art as claim 1 as being substantially similar.

6. Regarding claim 2, Pace discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 1, including executing fee processing of feeding back a penalty fee collected from the transmitter to the recipient (Pace, col. 4, lines 45-53).

7. Regarding claim 3, Pace discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 2, including wherein an amount equal to penalty fee feed back to the recipient is deducted from the charges the recipient is required to pay for maintaining the mail account (Pace, col. 4, lines 45-53).

8. Regarding claim 4, Pace discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 1, including wherein if the transmitter sends the reception refusal notice for another particular number of times to the same transmitter, relaying of electronic mail from the transmitter to the recipient is stopped (Pace, col. 4, lines 45-53).

9. Regarding claim 5, Pace discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 1, including wherein the warning notice is issued after the recipient sends the reception refusal notification first time, and the particular number of times is equal to two (Pace, col. 4, lines 45-53).

Conclusion

10. **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

11. In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571) 272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

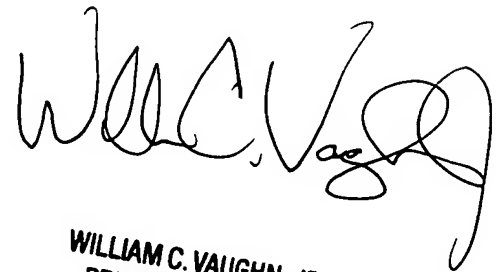
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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



J. B. D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143



WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER